scheme for delivering virtual lectures through EDUSAT. However, some organizations such as IGNOU etc. are, *inter-alia*, making use of EDUSAT facilities for delivery of virtual lectures for students across the country including rural and tribal areas.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Open learning system

1546. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the open learning system can help spread literacy;

(b) whether the Constitution implies right to access quality education in an equitable manner, and this can be attained primarily through open and distance learning system;

(c) whether Government are considering to open more open universities to provide education to all;

(d) if so, whether a number of initiatives have been taken to provide effective facilities, intellectual and knowledge resources in colleges, convergence between conventional university system and the open and distance learning; and

(e) if so, to what extent the facilities of these projects have helped in strengthening literacy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Though open learning system does not directly spread literacy, it can encourage people to become literate and go on to get certifications for Class III, Class V and higher.

(b) The 86th Amendment to the Constitution provides for free and compulsory education to all the children in the age group of 6 - 14 years. Open and distance learning system can provide education and equivalence certification with the conventional system of education. It has also helped in imparting training to the teachers with the objective of providing quality education to the children in the above mentioned age group. However, it may not be the primary source of education in the present scenario.

(c) No, Madam. The Central Government is not considering to open more open universities at present.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Approval to technical institutions

†1547. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many institutions are imparting technical education in the country, but they have not been given necessary Government approval;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.